



DEDICATED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE ARIZONA'S HERITAGE AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

## *State of the Site Steward Program*

*By Carol Griffith, Deputy SHPO*

Jim Garrison has been out of the office, so I am writing the SHPO report for the WATCH. I am not as creative as Jim in my prose, so my apologies for a less entertaining report. I decided to share the current status of the Site Steward Program (Program) and Program plans for the near future. Before I begin that discussion, I would like to thank and praise the Site Stewards, the Regional Coordinators, and Land Managers for the hard work you have done to keep the Program running and sites monitored during this last year. This year has been a real test of the strength of the Program. The commitment, professionalism, and dedication all of you bring to your volunteer work has carried this Program through a very difficult time.

Most of you are probably aware of the state's fiscal issues and the impact reduction in funding has had on Arizona State Parks. State Park's normal annual operating budget is 30 million dollars. The budget has been reduced to 19 million dollars. Out of necessity, this has lead to hiring freezes and reductions in staff.

The Site Steward Program lost its Program Coordinator in the first round of staff reductions last spring. In September, State Parks had a reduction in force that impacted another 16 positions. Given the current fiscal situation, we do not anticipate filling the Site Steward Coordinator position in the near future. In addition, the Heritage Funds used to support Program activities have been suspended.

There is some good news, however, René Bahl, the new Director of Arizona State Parks, is aware of, and supports, the good work of the Site Steward Program. Nicole Armstrong-Best, Coordinator for the Arizona State Parks Volunteer Program, has been acting as an interim Coordinator for the Site Steward Program. In spite of her already heavy workload, she is committed to continue her assistance to the Site Steward Program until the agency is able to hire a Site Steward Coordinator. Ann Howard and I will continue to provide additional assistance

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## *Program Update, continued*

### **STATE PARK STAFF**

Renee Bahl, Executive Director  
James Garrison, State Historic Preservation Officer  
Carol Griffith, Deputy SHPO  
Ann Howard, Public Program Manager/Archaeologist  
Nicole Armstrong-Best, Site Steward Program Coordinator

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KOFA Wildlife Refuge  
Luke Air Force Base  
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Saguaro National Parks  
Arizona State Parks  
Arizona State Land Department  
Pima County Parks and Recreation  
Maricopa County Parks  
The Archaeological Conservancy  
City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation  
City of Tempe  
Town of Prescott Valley  
Center for Desert Archaeology

State Parks staff and members of the State Parks Board can be contacted through: Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007; Tel & TTY ; (602) 542-4180; Internet; [www.azstateparks.com](http://www.azstateparks.com).

This document is available in alternative formats by contacting Arizona State Parks ADA Coordinator at (602) 542-7152.

### **Watch Newsletter**

The Arizona Watch is published four times per year: Winter (January), Spring (March), Summer (July) and Fall (October) by Arizona State Parks. Please submit articles via email to [sitestewards@azstateparks.gov](mailto:sitestewards@azstateparks.gov) or mail to 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ. 85007.

Kristen Dean McLean has continued to volunteer a few hours every week. Ruth Williams, Site Steward in Phoenix, has faithfully volunteered at the office processing new applications and assisting with other Program activities. These combined efforts have helped to maintain the basic work usually provided by a Program Coordinator.

Several federal agencies provided funding assistance for the Program in July and August. The Forest Service provided \$10,000 and Luke Air Force Base informed us of a little more than \$13,000 still available in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 funding. The Bureau of Land Management provided \$16,000 for 2010. Since the Forest Service money needed to be expended by the end of September 2009, the funds were applied to the development of the new Program database. Once this database is completed and operational, Stewards and Regional Coordinators will be able to submit hours electronically. This will be a major improvement in Program administration. The remainder of the funding will be used to help pay for part of Nicole's time and Program activities. A letter will be going to our other Program partners at the beginning of the new Federal FY asking them to remember the Site Steward Program in their 2010 budgets.

## *Program Update, continued*

This next year will be as challenging as 2009, but with the continued support and hard work of the Site Stewards, the Regional Coordinators, the land managing agencies, and Arizona State Parks staff, we will continue to protect Arizona's cultural resources and have an active Site Steward Program. Thank you again for all that you do to make the Site Steward Program a success.

## *Announcements*

### **New Site Steward Training starting up again!**

If you know of anyone interested in joining the Program, please refer them to the RC in your region, or to the following people:

Tucson Region 6 has scheduled training on January 23, 2010. Contact Robin Rutherford to schedule.

Central Arizona will also hold training in January (tentative dates are Jan 16 & 17). Contact Nicole Armstrong-Best to schedule.

## *NEW SITE STEWARD DATA ENTRY SYSTEM*

With all the changes taking place in the Program, it is great to report a positive step forward. Thanks to a partner donation from the Forest Service, we have been able to create a data entry system for the Site Steward Program. The system is based on a program developed several years ago for the Tucson Region. Luckily, they field tested the program for years and were kind enough to advise on how to improve it as we moved forward with a statewide system.

The system went live on Thursday, October 22, 2009. The Prescott Region offered to pilot test the system. A big thank-you to the Site Stewards in Prescott for entering and testing, and calling in, so that we could work through programming issues. We certainly appreciate your patience and willingness to be frustrated!

In addition, we are adding Regional Coordinators and Land Managers slowly. We have discovered some glitches, which have been successfully fixed by our programmer. Based on discussion at a recent Regional Coordinators meeting, we will add the Hassayampa Region in November and the Payson Region in December. In the new year, we will then be able to get every Site Steward logged onto the system. Therefore, please hold your activity logs for the next 2 months, so that you can enter them into the system when you get access.

And if you are not computer literate, please don't despair. Your Regional Coordinator, or a computer savvy member of your region, will be able to enter data for you!

If you would like to see the website homepage, please log on to [www.azsitestewardprogram.com](http://www.azsitestewardprogram.com).

## REGIONAL NEWS



### **Region 9S Agua Fria**

Within the past year, the Agua Fria Region lost two fine Site Stewards. Losing Mike Agnotti and John Lane is both a loss to the Program and a loss to their community, friends and family. They were fine people, dedicated Stewards and advocates for our desert. It was a pleasure for me to have known them and they will be missed.

Thanks to all the Site Stewards who are continuing to monitor sites knowing that our program will be back on track, soon.

***Lila Elam, Regional Coordinator***



### **Region 11 Hassayampa**

In April the Salt River and the Hassayampa Regions joined forces for a hike into Cottonwood Creek that was led by Ann M. She shared her site with eighteen Site Stewards who enjoyed the petroglyphs, the cottonwood trees, the wild flowers and the overflowing tinajas. We also had a chance to discuss current vandalism problems.

During the summer we had one major vandalism event in Slot Canyon. This area has always been a camping and party spot, but this time it was impacted very hard. Blue spray paint was used on the canyon walls which was impossible to remove. There was a ton of garbage (beer bottles, etc.) and the side canyon was being used for a bathroom. I have never seen so much disrespect for such a naturally beautiful area.

Fortunately they had not discovered the petroglyphs which are really hard to see. Chris McLaughlin, the BLM Archaeologist, is working on a plan to protect this site.

We are looking forward to cooler weather so we can get out to check our sites more frequently. We need to keep our eyes out for the bad guys!

***Shelley Rasmussen, Regional Coordinator***





## Region 16 Northeastern

On July 24<sup>th</sup> Site Stewards from Region 16 were treated to a special tour of Fourmile Ruin with Dr. Scott Van Keuren. Dr. Van Keuren and his crew of graduate and undergraduate students from the University of Vermont have been conducting excavations at this site for the past two summers.

After a brief talk about the history of the pueblo, we were taken to see the excavations. Dr. Van Keuren explained the purpose of each test area and described some of the more important artifacts that had been found. The quality of the masonry of the walls and the beautifully constructed sandstone topped bench in the kiva being tested, were very impressive.

Fourmile pueblo was the largest and last pueblo occupied in the Silver Creek Valley area, near Taylor and Snowflake, AZ. It is known for a distinctive type of pottery, Fourmile polychrome, found there and widely traded throughout the region. This site is owned by The Archaeological Conservancy and is one of 5 Conservancy sites that our region monitors.

It was exciting to see actual research being conducted at one of “our” sites and we left with a better understanding of the careful planning and detailed work and documentation that must be done by archaeologists today.

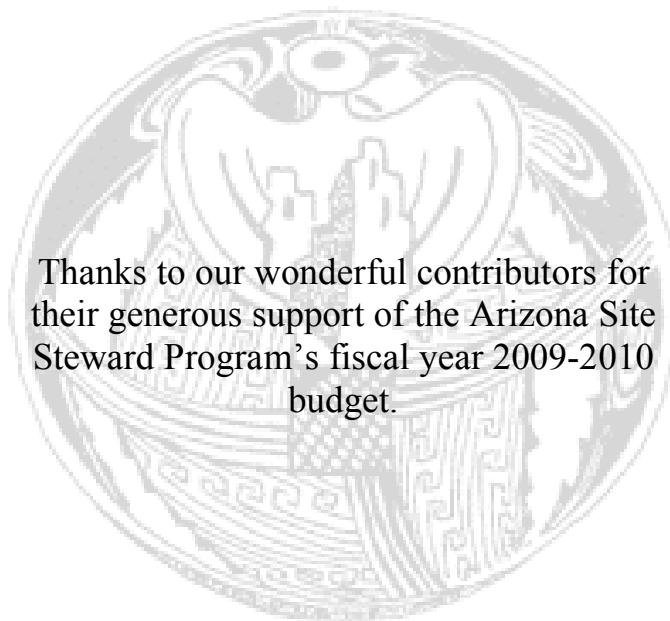
***Jo Ann Weldon, Regional Coordinator***



Dr. Van Keuren (in the foreground with the white hat) talking to the Region 16 group

## **PARTNERS' CIRCLE**

Stretching the Site Steward Budget



Thanks to our wonderful contributors for their generous support of the Arizona Site Steward Program's fiscal year 2009-2010 budget.

I would like to support the Arizona Site Steward Program by making a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please make your check payable to the "Arizona State Parks Foundation."

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